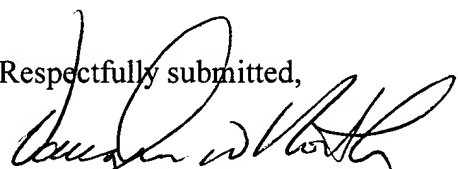


REMARKS

This preliminary amendment provides a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3). The surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t) is enclosed. The delay for claiming priority was unintentional. The amendment was made so that the application would contain a specific reference to the earlier filed applications, as required by 35 U.S.C. §120. The application was filed before the patenting or abandonment of the earlier filed applications to which priority is claimed. The application and earlier filed applications have at least one common inventor as required by MPEP 201.11. The invention disclosed in the application is also disclosed in the earlier filed applications.

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Respectfully submitted,



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